



GSM News



Fostering Hope through Service Work: Strengthening Our Community and Good Shepherd's Life Recovery Program

At Good Shepherd Ministries, we believe that the power of service extends far beyond our physical facilities and programs. Service work is not just an act of kindness but a cornerstone of our mission to rebuild lives, restore hope, and nurture recovery. We are proud to share the profound impact of service work on our community and how it profoundly supports the men in recovery within our Life Recovery Program.

Service work is a beacon of hope that shines through the darkness of addiction, despair, and isolation. It is the thread that weaves our community together, fostering unity, empathy, and shared responsibility. As the men in our Life Recovery Program rebuild their lives, the act of giving back becomes an essential part of their journey towards healing and sobriety.

Why Service Work Matters:

- **Healing Through Helping:** Service work provides our residents with purpose and a sense of accomplishment. By positively impacting others, they transition from self-centered struggles to community-centered growth. This shift builds self-esteem and strengthens their resolve to maintain sobriety.
- **Building Connection and Community:** Service work fosters belonging and connection. As our residents witness the gratitude and support of those they help, they develop meaningful relationships and a support network essential for long-term recovery.
- **Breaking Stigma:** Through service, our residents embody hope, proving that recovery is achievable. Their actions inspire others to seek help, reducing stigma and enriching the collective well-being of our community.

The Impact on Our Community:

Service work not only transforms individual lives but uplifts entire communities. The ripple effect of compassion and dedication reinforces the strength of unity, while stories like Michael and Abel Corser's remind us that service is a reciprocal journey of giving and receiving. Good Shepherd Ministries is deeply grateful for the volunteers, donors, and supporters who amplify our mission. Your tireless efforts have enabled men in our Life Recovery Program to achieve remarkable growth while improving our shared community. Together, we continue to build a brighter future, one act of service at a time.

Thank You for Supporting Our Mission: None of this would be possible without your generosity and commitment. Your contributions transform lives, strengthen recovery, and create a brighter future for all. As we look ahead to 2025, we invite you to continue this journey with us—building hope, fostering unity, and bringing light to the lives of those in recovery.

Together, we are truly making a difference. Thank you for helping us help others.





A Journey of Redemption

My name is William Hawley, and I am 38 years old. My story is one of transformation, perseverance, and faith. Born and raised on the Eastside of Dayton, Ohio, my early years were shaped by instability and loss. At just four years old, I was adopted after my biological parents succumbed to addiction.

Sadly, addiction didn't escape my adoptive home, and my childhood was marked by constant moves between foster homes and adoptive parents, leaving me without stability or a place to truly call home. By 14, I was working, drinking, and using drugs—lessons I learned in an environment that normalized substance use as long as I kept a job. Trouble with the law soon followed. Expelled from Dayton Public Schools, I bounced from one job to another, unable to hold employment or pass drug tests. I spiraled deeper into addiction and chaos—two DUIs in one year, driving on a suspended license, car accidents, homelessness, and profound despair. At 21, I thought fatherhood might save me, but my addiction continued to rob me of everything, including a relationship with my daughter.

For years, I lived on the streets, praying for relief and a second chance. Frostbite left me without feeling in my feet, multiple overdoses nearly claimed my life, and Narcan became a lifeline. I hit rock bottom, broken in every way. Finally, in January 2023, I sought help at Woodhaven, completing three months of treatment. Desperate for change, I called Good Shepherd Ministries every day until I was accepted into their program.

Since joining Good Shepherd Ministries, my life has transformed in ways I could never have imagined. I have completed construction core classes, earned certifications in heavy equipment operation and OSHA 30, and am close to paying off my license after clearing thousands in restitution, warrants, and back child support. Through Good Shepherd's microbusinesses, I found stability, purpose, and a job. In early 2024, I was promoted to Lawn Maintenance Foreman. Today, I sponsor and mentor others, teaching them not just skills but the hope of recovery.

The greatest gift has been reconciling with my daughter and reconnecting with God. My spiritual journey, nurtured by the unwavering support of Good Shepherd Ministries, has been the cornerstone of my recovery. I celebrate two years of sobriety this January—a milestone I once thought impossible.

Good Shepherd Ministries saved my life and gave me the tools to rebuild it. To anyone struggling: there is hope, even after hitting rock bottom. Thank you to everyone who supports this incredible ministry—you are changing lives.

– William Hawley



A huge thank you to all the hard work from our recovering brothers and sisters.

GSM Highlights: A Year of Impactful Community Service in 2024

In 2024, Good Shepherd Ministries made significant strides in community service, leaving a lasting positive impact. Here's a look at what we accomplished together:

- **20 Tons of Trash Removed:** Our team worked diligently to clean and beautify neighborhoods, removing 20 tons of trash and enhancing the environment.
- **12 Tons of Tires Responsibly Disposed Of:** Clearing 12 tons of tires eliminated hazards and improved the aesthetics of our streets.
- **40 Alleyways Cleaned:** By restoring 40 alleyways, we made neighborhoods safer and more inviting for residents.
- **Grass Cutting Program:** We revitalized 35 abandoned properties, transforming neglected areas into spaces of pride for the community.
- **Assisting Vulnerable Populations:** Over 25 individuals with disabilities and seniors received assistance with house chores, yard work, and home improvements, fostering independence and comfort.
- **Community Events:** Hosting 5 events, we spread joy to over 1,800 people, celebrating milestones and holidays with food, games, and fellowship.
- **New Welding & Construction Core Classes:** Clients graduated from Construction Core Classes, Four Graduated from Welding Classes, fourteen certifications for all these classes.
- **Thanks to all of our Supporters & Partners:** including CLC Church, Twin Towers Association, New Hope Church, Christ United Methodist Church, Good Neighbor House, Mission of Mary, MVP Walk-in Showers, McAfee Heating and Air, Greg McAfee and family, and many more.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our partners, volunteers, and supporters who joined us in these endeavors. Your contributions and commitment have made these impactful community service initiatives possible, and we look forward to continuing this journey of transformation and service in the years to come. Thank you for helping us help others.

East Dayton Christmas Trees. Live Animal Manger. Firewood. & Tent Rental

Join us for the 7th Annual East Dayton Good Shepherd Christmas Tree Sale starting Friday, November 29th (the day after Thanksgiving) and running daily from 9am to 9pm until we sell out!

Location: 1115 East Third Street, Dayton, OH (open field area).

Exciting Features This Year:

- **Live Animal Manger Scene:** Experience the wonder with donkeys, goats, sheep, and more on December 13th, 20th, and 21st from 5:30pm – 8:30pm.
- **Sober Santa Appearances:** Stop by on weekends for photos and festive cheer!
- **Hot Drinks:** Warm up with hot chocolate and hot apple cider available for purchase.
- **Firewood:** Place your order for some of the best hardwood firewood we've ever had!
- **Tent Rental:** Rent a 40x40 commercial event tent for your holiday gatherings.

This is a perfect way to get your Christmas tree while supporting a great cause. Every purchase helps fund the life-changing programs at Good Shepherd Ministries! **Questions or Orders?** Call us at 513-816-8089 to reserve your firewood or learn more. Thank you for supporting Good Shepherd Ministries. Let's make this Christmas season unforgettable for our community!





GSM Alumni Corner

Celebrating Adam's Journey

In this edition of the Alumni Corner, we are proud to celebrate the remarkable journey of Adam, a shining example of resilience and success in recovery.

Over the past year, Adam has achieved several significant milestones in his recovery journey. A year ago, he took a courageous step forward by moving into his first apartment, marking an important moment of independence and stability.

Through Good Shepherd Ministries' work program, Adam was connected with Dayton Phoenix Company, an organization that has become a vital partner in providing employment opportunities to our recovering brothers. After completing our recovery and job training program, Adam joined Dayton Phoenix and has been thriving in his role. His dedication and strong work ethic are evident in his excellent attendance and hard work.

In Adam's own words: "I cannot thank Good Shepherd Ministries enough for all the training and tools they gave me to get my life back together. I have a wonderful job making great money with amazing benefits and insurance. Staying connected with my recovering brothers and the Shep is key to my recovery. I am truly blessed to continue being of service to my community and Good Shepherd, mentoring, and giving back to my brothers at Good Shepherd Ministries."

Adam's story is a testament to the power of community, support, and perseverance. We are inspired by his commitment to recovery and his dedication to helping others along their journey.

Congratulations, Adam, on all you have accomplished and your upcoming six years of continued sobriety! Your story encourages all of us at Good Shepherd Ministries to continue empowering lives through recovery, work, and service.



Please Consider Supporting Our Mission.

We are incredibly grateful for our supporters of Good Sheperd Ministries. As this year comes to a close, we are thankful for all the goals we have reached and for the programs we are able to provide our clients, with much thanks to you.

Please consider donating and becoming a partner for GSM by filling out the form below and returning to us. Happy New Year!



First and Last Name: _____ **Donation Amount:** _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____

- I wish to make a monetary donation in the form of:
- Paypal (send to XXemail)
- Enclosed Check (payable to Good Shepherd Ministries)
- Credit Card MC Visa Discover AMEX

Expiration date: /

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You can also donate via our website at:

TheGSM.net

Mail Checks to: 1115 E 3rd St, Dayton, OH 45402

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



On the Horizon: Good Shepherd Ministries Vision for 2025

At Good Shepherd Ministries, we continue to dream boldly, envisioning transformative projects for the upcoming year that will enhance our capacity to serve both the men in recovery and the broader Dayton community. Here's a look at what's on the horizon for 2025:

A New 42x40 Multi-Purpose Building at 709 Xenia Avenue

We are excited to announce plans for a new 42x40 facility at our 709 Xenia Avenue property. This building will serve as a dynamic hub for education, skill-building, and practical support, including:

- **Welding Classes:** Expanding our successful welding certification program to equip more men with valuable trade skills.
- **Storage for Lawn & Landscape Equipment:** Providing an organized, secure space to house equipment essential for our thriving microbusiness ventures.
- **Construction Classes:** Offering hands-on instruction in construction and trade skills, further broadening career opportunities for program participants.
- **Vehicle Lift & Maintenance Area:** Creating a workspace for vehicle and equipment repairs to maintain operational efficiency and reduce costs.

To make this vision a reality, we are aiming to raise \$30,000.00 to fund the building and its essential features. Your support will empower individuals in recovery to build new futures while strengthening the services we provide.

Installation of Sensory Community Gardens

Another exciting initiative for 2025 is the creation of sensory community gardens—a space designed to engage the five senses and promote healing, mindfulness, and connection. These gardens will serve as:

- **A Sanctuary for Mental Health:** Providing a therapeutic environment that fosters relaxation and mindfulness, especially for those recovering from trauma or addiction.
- **An Inclusive Space:** Designed to be accessible for individuals of all ages and abilities, ensuring that everyone in our community can benefit.
- **A Tool for Education:** Offering opportunities for learning about nature, sustainability, and healthy living practices.
- **A Social Hub:** Reducing isolation by creating a gathering place where people can connect, share, and support one another.
- **An Environmental Asset:** Contributing to urban greening and biodiversity in Dayton.

These gardens will be a beautiful and meaningful addition to our Xenia Avenue property, reflecting our commitment to holistic recovery and community well-being.

Join Us in Building a Brighter Future

Good Shepherd Ministries has always relied on the support and generosity of individuals, organizations, and volunteers to bring our vision to life. In 2025, we invite you to be a part of these transformative projects by contributing your time, resources, or expertise. Together, we can create spaces that foster healing, inspire hope, and transform lives. Thank you for being a cornerstone of our mission to rebuild lives and restore communities.



Triple Wide (26'-30' Wide)
42' W x 40' L x 11'7" H



Exciting News from Good Shepherd Ministries!

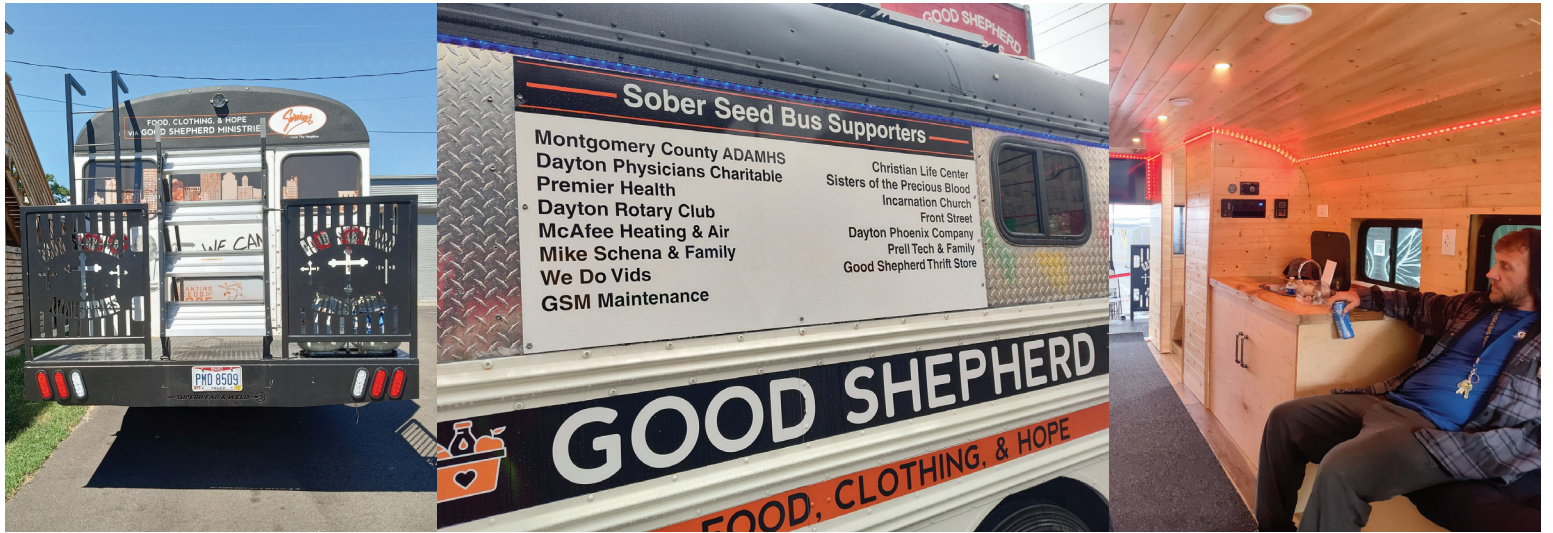
We're overjoyed to announce that our **Good Shepherd Sober Community Seed Bus** is officially complete! This incredible addition to our ministry is a **gamechanger**, allowing us to expand our reach and provide even more support to our neighbors. With the Seed Bus, we can:

- **Feed and support thousands** of people in Dayton and surrounding areas.
- **Bring hope to hard-hit areas**, planting seeds of change and transformation.
- **Partner with businesses, churches, and outreach events** to share our message, cook meals, and showcase the bus in action.

Call today to schedule the Seed Bus for your event and learn more about Good Shepherd Ministries!

And that's not all—our **Thrift Store at 1115 East Third Street has had a Re-Grand Opening!** Come visit the newly renovated store and explore our fantastic new inventory. Every purchase directly supports our mission, helping us continue to transform lives.

Thank you for supporting Good Shepherd Ministries as we work to bring hope and healing to our community!



Thank You, Dayton Phoenix!

We are incredibly grateful to Dayton Phoenix for their unwavering support of Good Shepherd Ministries. As one of our biggest donors, they've been instrumental in our efforts to fund a new roof and two wooden fire escapes for our recovery houses—projects we are still actively fundraising for.

Their generosity doesn't stop there! Dayton Phoenix also sponsored our **7th Annual Sober Rafting Trip** in West Virginia this year, creating unforgettable memories for our recovering brothers.

We especially appreciate their commitment to hiring our brothers in recovery, giving them meaningful employment opportunities and a fresh start. Dayton Phoenix, your support is saving lives and transforming our community.

Thank you for helping us help others!

